

Hi my name is Laura Burban and I am the Director of the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter in Branford as well as an animal control officer. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony today.

I am speaking in favor of HB 5170. HB 5170 would allow animal control officers to have another tool in their toolbox when dealing with the public regarding animal concerns. We have seen many unique situations where people thought they were providing adequate outdoor housing for their dogs, but they were not.

Some instances would include people tying their dogs up so they could gain access to the underneath of their decks however when it was raining, their dogs would be soaking wet from the conditions. Another instance was when a dog was living in an enclosed shed without lighting. I studied environmental factors that affect kennel shelter dogs for my master's thesis and I can tell you that animals need proper lighting conditions for their circadian rhythms.

This law will allow us to guide the public more effectively as to what they should provide for proper housing before having to charge them with animal cruelty. It is also important to note that this bill would include both tethered and untethered dogs.

I, once again, appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Burban

Director of Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter

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